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Teaching Origami

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Ohio Paper Folders

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Teaching Origami

Ohio Paper Folders, 2016

“after only a few lessons, they are able to teach a simple design to others. Yet you can spend a lifetime learning advanced techniques, and some models require thousands of folds to complete.”

Abstract

Ohio Paper Folders is a visual arts education organization whose participating artists teach origami all over the state of Ohio. In a time when funding for arts programs is being cut nationwide, we are able to offer an affordable, accessible, and beneficial introduction to the arts through the ancient practice of origami. By leveraging powerful community relationships and offering interactive instructional presentations, Ohio Paper Folders is able to reach and engage students of all ages and means in a wide variety of venues.



Method

We bring origami programs to the public at a variety of venues across the state. Eliminating barriers of language, race, age, gender, socio-economic level and education, we have found that anyone can benefit from learning and practicing this art form.

- Schools
- Festivals and Fairs
- Hospitals
- Libraries
- Senior Centers
- In Service Programs
- Clubs and Organizations

Feedback

From surveys of participants

“It is one of the few arts that promotes an open community, sharing and collaboration between different artists.” W. Chao

“Most people have no idea of the current state of the complexity and refinement of modern origami art.” T. Crain

“Paper folders tend to work in isolation, alone with their books and paper. It is essential to the advancement of the art and craft of origami that there be opportunities for folders to meet, exchange ideas, and learn from each other.” B. La-vollette

“This...is an orgy of learning” C. McCollough

“Learning and doing origami is a powerful self-esteem builder for children. They go home and can truthfully say ‘I made this myself!’” B. Voelker

Discussion

In addition to being a vital part of art education, origami provides measurable intellectual, and physical benefits ; however, feedback formally gathered from participants including teachers, librarians, program coordinators, and students, found that it was the emotional benefit gained from the opportunity to experience ownership of their work that was paramount to achieving the maximum benefit from a workshop. Unlike almost any other art form, when we sit down to teach someone their first origami model, they are able to complete a piece and experience pride, and it is these emotional benefits most frequently cited and confirmed by our participants and witnessed by our dedicated instructors.

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